

## HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

# INTRODUCTION

## FINDINGS OF FACT

2. Approximately two weeks ago, an incident occurred at the family shelter. Petitioner testified that her child was emptying a trash can and found a needle. Petitioner and R.P. believed the needle belonged to a new shelter resident.

R.P. got into an altercation with the new shelter resident and R.P. was asked to leave.

3. Petitioner reported the needle to COTS. The matter is being investigated. Both petitioner and N.S., benefit program specialist, testified that COTS has a zero tolerance policy for drugs and alcohol.

4. Petitioner and her minor child continue to have housing and services through COTS.

ORDER

The Department's decision to deny temporary housing assistance at a hotel/motel is affirmed.

REASONS

Applicants can apply for temporary housing assistance through either the General Assistance or the Emergency Assistance programs. W.A.M. §§ 2600 *et seq.* and 2800 *et seq.* In particular, applicants must meet the eligibility criteria set out at W.A.M. §§ 2602 and 2802 which provides, in part:

. . . (3) They must explore and pursue or have explored and pursued all alternatives for addressing the need, such as family, credit or loans, private or community resources. . .

Petitioner has an alternative to temporary housing assistance through the shelter and case management provided

by COTS. As a result, petitioner is not homeless and does not have an emergency need for housing. There are instances in which a shelter may not be appropriate, such as documented health needs of an applicant that would foreclose shelter in a group setting. This is not one of those circumstances.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is affirmed. 3  
V.S.A. § 3091(d), Fair Hearing Rule No. 17.

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